

**DISEASES OF THE EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT IN CHILDREN**—Second Edition—T. G. Wilson, B.A., M.B., Litt.D., F.R.C.S.I., Hon. F.R.C.S. Edin., Hon. R.H.A., M.R.I.A., Past President Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Past President, Collegium Otorhinolaryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum; Member, James IV Association of Surgeons; Surgeon-in-Charge, Ear, Nose and Throat Departments, Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, and The National Children's Hospital, Dublin; Honorary Member of the Scottish Otolaryngological Society. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1962. 351 pages, with illustrations by the Author, \$12.50.

Initially published in 1955, Mr. Wilson's text was the first written on the subject of pediatric otolaryngology since the publication of Alexander's book in 1917. The rather archaic original edition is concise and well organized, and offers good coverage of congenital anomalies, hearing and speech problems, laryngology, and broncho-esophagology.

Although the second edition contains a large number of well distributed, but minor changes, the only new sections are those dealing with congenital abnormalities of the external auditory meatus and the middle ear, cholesteatosis of the middle ear, and neonatal asphyxia.

Despite the inadequacy of the revisions of both the didactic and bibliographic sections, the new edition of Wilson's "Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat in Children" contains a great deal of valuable material which has much to offer to those residents in pediatrics and in otolaryngology who are critical readers.

CHARLES P. LEO, M.D.

\* \* \*

**PSYCHIATRIC INSURANCE: Financing Short-Term Ambulatory Treatment**—Helen H. Avnet, Group Health Insurance, Inc., New York, 1962.

This study, cosponsored by the American Psychiatric Association and the National Association for Mental Health, was financed by a National Institute of Mental Health grant. Coverage was offered at no extra premium to a sample of GHI membership, 30,000 subscribers and their dependents, a total of 76,000 persons. The study was undertaken to gain experience with a stable population utilizing a well-established health insurance plan.

Professional interest was high and participating psychiatrists agreed to the project fee. Despite considerable promotion and coverage from the first visit, psychiatric claims were filed by less than 1½ per cent of those covered (1,077) during the 30 months of the project and, consequently, service was sought from less than half the psychiatrists. Utilization rates decreased after the initial backlog of demand was satisfied. The new case experience was but 5 per 1,000 eligibles annually. Since usage fell far short of assumed need, some public resistance may be inferred. Over 400 persons advised of actual eligibility for benefits never became patients.

Coverage involved coinsurance, the fee (benefit:coinsurance) varying with the service such as: 45-minute office psychotherapy, \$20 (75:25 per cent), limit \$225; that is, 15 visits; hospitalization to 30 days at up to \$25 per diem (60:40 per cent); etc. Marital status, education and occupation were major variables; the unmarried, the college graduate and the professional being relatively high users.

Main referral sources were physicians—38 per cent and self—35 per cent, but the majority of psychiatrists—70 per cent stated they were not reporting to the patient's family physician; both referral and reporting reflecting less than desirable medical collaboration. Only 27 per cent of the patients sought treatment within six months of the onset of symptoms while 62 per cent of project cases had no prior experience with psychiatric treatment. Neurosis accounted for 42 per cent of the cases, psychosis 20 per cent, personality disorder 14 per cent, transient situational dis-

order 11 per cent, and all others 13 per cent. The sole criterion for acceptance was any condition treated by a psychiatrist.

Whether by type of service or demographic characteristic, the findings were clear that psychiatric patients used substantially more medical-surgical service than non-psychiatric patients (176 per cent) and this extended even to members of their family. For four out of five patients, individual office psychotherapy was the only form of treatment they received under the project (many of these had drug therapy at personal expense). But 6 per cent of project cases were hospitalized; 77 per cent of them having no prior such hospitalization. They stayed an average of 22.8 days, 39 per cent up to the 30-day limit allowed. Despite special arrangements made for day care and night care services they were never used. Electroshock was given to 7 per cent of patients, 7 per cent had psychological testing (mostly younger patients) and but 2 per cent had group therapy. Of the office limit cases (15 visits), it was noteworthy that two thirds continued treatment privately without project aid.

The average cost per terminated case was \$186. Benefits were not renewable; if so, a margin of 50 per cent might have been added to second year costs. A rough conversion to the cost per subscriber for annually renewable services at project limits yields an encouraging figure of 36c per month (allowing 25 per cent for operating and administrative costs). The main conclusion of the study then, "that short-term, ambulatory, psychiatric treatments are insurable," is certainly warranted. Such findings call for action—the provision of coverage for mental disorder in all health insurance policies.

HERBERT DÖRKEN, Ph.D.

*Deputy Director*

*Liaison and Prevention Services  
State of California Department  
of Mental Hygiene*

\* \* \*

**RESEARCH APPROACHES TO PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS**—A Symposium—Tenth Anniversary Symposium of The Galesburg State Research Hospital, October 21 and 22, 1960, Galesburg, Illinois. Edited by Thomas T. Tourlentes, M.D., Seymour L. Pollack, M.D., and Harold E. Himwich, M.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1962. 238 pages, \$5.50.

This small book consists of a collection of papers which were presented at the Tenth Annual Symposium on Biological Psychological and Sociological Approaches to Current Psychiatric Problems held in Galesburg, Ill., in October, 1960. The individual contributions attempt to summarize some of the principal thoughts and promising trends of the past ten years.

The development of concepts of organization and function of the brain is traced in a scholarly manner by Magoun from Greek antiquity to the present. M. Vogt reviews the theories and facts about the functional role of noradrenaline, serotonin, and other amines found in mammalian brain and concludes that present knowledge about the functional role of the brain is almost nil. Lehmann and his associates report on their quite original studies of the effects of psychotropic drugs in biological systems of low complexity. The drugs were secobarbital, dextroamphetamine, chlorpromazine, prochlorperazine, LSD-25 and imipramine. The biological systems studied were grouped into those primarily representing metabolic processes, or growth, or reactive phenomena. They were urease-urea hydrolytic enzyme system, the luciferaose-luciferase oxidase system (of fire flies), proteus bacteria cultures, He La cell tissue cultures, oat seedlings raised in darkness, the hydra feeding reflex and dandelion sleep movements. Differential effects were noted

with different concentrations of the drugs at the cellular level. For example, in four of the seven different systems, dextroamphetamine produced more inhibition at a lower than at a higher concentration. Their findings offer the possibility of new ways of classifying psychotropic substances and suggest that meaningful relationships exist between the reactions of organisms possessing a nervous system and biological systems of low complexity.

Recent developments in the field of genetics and their relationship to psychiatric disorders is concisely reviewed by Kallman. He summarizes the irregularities in the sex chromosome complement that have been found in Turner's and Klinefelter's syndromes, mongolism, "superfemales" and special variants of these disorders and predicts that further research at the molecular and chromosomal levels will greatly enhance understanding of human disorders of behavior.

Benjamin reports on an intensive study of two identical twins who manifested physiological differences at birth which appeared to contribute to a differential reaction on the part of the mother and thus to different experiences in their early object relations. He demonstrates the difficulty in separating hereditary and environmental factors when they are so intimately related in their interaction.

Other chapters dealing with the epidemiology and biochemical study of schizophrenia, sensory deprivation, the effects of heart disease and cardiac surgery on psychologic and neurologic functioning, interviewing, physiological responses to experimental stress and the psychosexual development of Macaque monkeys under experimental conditions, contribute to the achievement of the expressed goal of the editors—the review of the main streams of research in psychiatry today. For those who are interested in current directions of psychiatric research, the book will prove informative, interesting and rewarding.

NORMAN Q. BRILL, M.D.

\* \* \*

**PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS—A Textbook for Students and Practitioners of Medicine and Its Allied Professions—Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged, 236 Illustrations with 2 in Color—Arthur Grollman, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P., Lecturer in Pharmacology and Toxicology, The Medical Branch, and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Experimental Medicine, The Southwestern Medical School, The University of Texas. Lea & Febiger, 600 Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1962. 1131 pages, \$12.50.**

This latest edition of Grollman's popular textbook is as sound and up-to-date and complete as such a book can be and stay in the practical price range. Written by an experienced pharmacologist who is also a clinician, the book offers the student and practicing physician not only the essentials (and more) of the basic science of pharmacology, but also a selection of drugs and clinical interpretation which removes the mystery from bedside therapeutics. The abundant photographs, graphs and tables illustrate well many phenomena of drug action which are difficult to describe in words and are carefully selected from articles of leading pharmacologists, chemists and clinicians, including many from the author's own publications and classroom results.

By judicious revisions and deletions, Professor Grollman has succeeded in including all important new drugs introduced since the preparation of his previous edition without enlarging the book. He retains the same order of discussion and classification of drugs as in earlier editions.

In the first part of the book there is an amplification of the discussion of the theory of drug action on the basis of cell receptors and competitive antagonism and other

types of competition and the relation of chemical constitution to pharmacological action. Under the title of Drug Synergism the idea has been carried further to cover antagonism of such drugs as pilocarpine and atropine, the antihistamines and the potentiation of epinephrine action by cocaine. There is also an enlarged discussion of types of side effects and toxic actions and of the meaning of the therapeutic index. In the main body of the text, there has been an amplification of the important subject of salicylate poisoning, with emphasis on the need for potassium and the dangers of the standard alkali therapy. The discussion of the actions and uses of tranquilizers and monoamine oxidase inhibitors has been extended and especially helpful is the chapter on vasodilators and other drugs used in the treatment of angina pectoris and hypertension.

The difficult subject of actions and uses of digitalis is handled clearly, except that statements concerning the effect of digitalis on the refractory period on page 464 seem to be contradictory.

The chapter on anesthesia could have been improved by giving more space to halothane and less to the almost obsolete tribromoethanol. Although the effects of thalidomide on the fetus were already recognized when the book went to press, no mention is made of this fact and only the somnifacient effects are emphasized. A few typographical errors were noted.

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D., Ph.D.

\* \* \*

**CURRENT THERAPY—1963—Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practicing Physician—Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1963. 775 pages, \$12.50.**

This latest edition of *Current Therapy* carries on the excellent tradition set by Dr. Conn when he established this series of annual volumes some years ago. There is sufficient change in the authorities writing various chapters so that it keeps a certain degree of freshness in the presentations. Anyone who keeps several consecutive volumes in this series will by reviewing the same subject in each of them have the opinions of methods of therapy by outstanding authorities in this country.

Specialists as well as those in general practice will find it very useful to refer to this volume on numerous occasions. The more they practice medicine the more they will refer to it.

DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

\* \* \*

**CURRENT DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, 1962—Henry Brainerd, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chairman, Department of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine (San Francisco) and Physician-in-Chief, University of California Hospitals (San Francisco), Sheldon Margen, M.D., Research Biochemist, Department of Biochemistry, University of California School of Medicine (San Francisco), and Milton J. Chatton, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California (San Francisco) and Stanford University (Palo Alto) Schools of Medicine, and Geriatric Consultant, Palo Alto Medical Clinic (and Associate Authors). Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, Calif., 1962. 758 pages, \$8.50.**

As medical knowledge continues to expand this excellent handy reference has continued to grow and grow until it is no longer possible for one to stuff it into one's pocket. Some of its usefulness is thereby impaired. However, the contents are as up to date and relevant as ever. As a handy and immediate guide for the student or practitioner it has no superior.

Perhaps the next edition should consist of two smaller books, one for each pocket.